

The Ark Synagogue Cheder 2024/25

YEARS 5 & 6

HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS



Introduction

Our objective for Cheder education in Years 5 & 6 is to build on the students' knowledge of Judaism, providing them with a better understanding of the values, festivals and stories that shape our Jewish identity. The curriculum is based on age-appropriate books, short videos and will give the children an opportunity to express their creativity.



Term Overview

Classes will be held on Saturday morning during term time. In general, the morning will start with a short cheder assembly at 10am in the Osorio Hall - parents are warmly invited to attend alongside their children. The Jewish Studies lesson will run from 10:15 - 11am. This will be followed by an optional introduction to Hebrew class from 11:15 - noon. Unless older siblings are also enrolled in the cheder, we ask that parents stay in or around the synagogue during class time until we can confirm that the children have fully settled in.

Term Dates

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Sat 14 Sep '24	Sat 18 Jan '25	Sat 26 Apr '25
Sat 21 Sep '24	Sat 25 Jan '25	Sat 3 May '25
Sat 28 Sep '24	Sat 1 Feb '25	Sat 10 May '25
Sat 05 Oct '24	Sat 8 Feb '25	Sat 17 May '25
Sat 19 Oct '24	Sat 1 Mar '25	Sat 7 Jun '25
Sat 9 Nov '24	Sat 8 Mar '25	Sat 14 Jun '25
Sat 16 Nov '24	Sat 15 Mar '25	Sat 21 Jun '25
Sat 23 Nov '24	Sat 22 Mar '25	Sat 28 Jun '25
Sat 30 Nov '24	Sat 29 Mar '25	Sat 5 Jul '25
Sat 7 Dec '24		

Jewish Studies Curriculum

We supply our teachers with a detailed curriculum for each lesson - parents are welcome to contact Rabbi Lea to receive a copy of the lesson plans. In this handbook, we are just sharing the topic of each lesson to allow parents to engage with their children about what they have learnt.

Autumn Term

Sat 14 Sep '24	Emet: Why is truth so important?
Sat 21 Sep '24	What does t'shuvah mean?
Sat 28 Sep '24	Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: How does the sound of the shofar help us to do t'shuvah?
Sat 05 Oct '24	What does sameach b'chelko mean?
Sat 19 Oct '24	<i>Sukkot: How do we know that we are happy with what we have on Sukkot?</i>
Sat 9 Nov '24	<i>K'vod Habriyot: What is k'vod habriyot (individual dignity)?</i>
Sat 16 Nov '24	<i>K'vod Habriyot: Is k'vod habriyot (individual dignity) only about bullying and "saving face" or are there other factors involved?</i>
Sat 23 Nov '24	<i>Hakarat Hatov: How do we demonstrate hakarat hatov (gratitude) for friends and strangers?</i>
Sat 30 Nov '24	<i>Hakarat Hatov: How do we demonstrate hakarat hatov (gratitude) for God?</i>
Sat 7 Dec '24	Chanukkah: How can we enhance the hakarat hatov aspects of Chanukkah?

Spring Term

Sat 18 Jan '25	<i>Kehillah</i> : What is <i>kehillah</i> /Jewish community?
Sat 25 Jan '25	<i>Kehillah</i> : How can I contribute to the <i>kehillah</i> ?
Sat 1 Feb '25	<i>Kehillah</i> : How do differences within the Jewish community enrich the community as a whole?
Sat 8 Feb '25	<i>Arevut</i> : What is <i>arevut</i> ?
Sat 1 Mar '25	<i>Arevut</i> : Does <i>arevut</i> mean that as Jews we are responsible for the world's Jews or that we are responsible for everyone in the world?
Sat 8 Mar '25	Purim: What does responsibility to the Jewish people mean?
Sat 15 Mar '25	<i>Tzedek</i> : What is <i>tzedek</i> ?
Sat 22 Mar '25	<i>Tzedek</i> : What is the difference between seeking justice and getting what you want?
Sat 29 Mar '25	Pesach: How does the story of God taking us out of slavery motivate us to work for justice for the stranger and the powerless in society today?

Summer Term

Sat 26 Apr '25	The Impossible Tower: What did the generation of the Tower of Babel do wrong?
Sat 3 May '25	The Impossible Tower: What can we learn about the Tower of Babel from looking at art?
Sat 10 May '25	Rebecca's Kindness: What are Jewish ways of demonstrating <i>derech eretz</i> ?
Sat 17 May '25	Jacob's Discovery: When and where do we feel God with us in our lives?
Sat 7 Jun '25	Jacob's Struggle: What does it mean to "struggle with God"?
Sat 14 Jun '25	Moses stands before God: How is the God of Abrahamn, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, also the God of each one of us?
Sat 21 Jun '25	Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden: How does knowing the difference between good and evil require us to behave?
Sat 28 Jun '25	Freedom and the Future: How is putting a mezuzah on our doorpost a choice that marks us as part of the Jewish community?